



— The Spring Issue 2026 —

Eyeopener

The Official Newsletter of Texas Association of Perianesthesia Nurses

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TAPAN EXEC BOARD 2025-2026

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TAPAN Set to Celebrate 50 Years of Perianesthesia Nursing



Elaine Mueller

The Texas Association of Perianesthesia Nurses (TAPAN) was founded in 1976--back when nurses wore white starched uniforms, stockings, white shoes, and a nursing cap. Through the years, innovation, education, and research has steadily elevated our nursing practice.

Known then as the Texas Association of Post Anesthesia Nurses, the first meetings were held in 1976 and 1977. The founding board was then created. One of them is Elaine Mueller, who has been the constant for TAPAN for over 40 years. Elaine was honored in 2025 for her pivotal role in the organization. Elaine's legacy has spanned 50 years!

As the current TAPAN Executive Board gears up to celebrate this important milestone, we look back at TAPAN's numerous accomplishments in the service to the community, nursing education, advocacy, and research innovations in perianesthesia nursing.



TAPAN President's Message

Celebrate Perianesthesia Nurses!

Geraldine delos Santos, MSN RN CPAN

Perianesthesia nurses all across the United States celebrated **Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW)** last February 2-8, 2026. The Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, sent out his proclamation stating that these nurses, “serve the Lone Star State with distinction as they care for their fellow Texans”.

Our varied regions celebrated PANAW in many ways--from sponsored educational lunches, blessing of the hands, dance-off contests, and their PANAW symposiums or seminars. The North & East and Hill Country & South Texas Regions held their PANAW Seminars on Saturday, February 7th, providing continuing education hours for members and non-members. The Upper Gulf Coast Region held its Annual Spring Seminar in Houston on February 21st and had over 100 attendees! PANAW pictures were sent to ASPAN's Breathline Editor to feature all the celebrations across our regions! As the president of TAPAN, it gives me great joy to see that each region is thriving by elevating perianesthesia practice.

On March 19th, we also celebrate **Certified Nurses Day!** Be proud of your achievements! CPAN and CAPA certified nurses make our specialty stand out! The Perianesthesia certification examination window for Spring starts March 15th! Godspeed to all those who are seeking certification this year!

The American Board of PeriAnesthesia Certification (ABPANC) reported TAPAN's certification numbers as of Fall 2025 as:

CPAN Total - 751; Newly Certified - 52

CAPA Total - 556; Newly Certified - 19

Dual Total - 91 (included in CPAN/CAPA totals)



Governor's Proclamation Celebrating PANAW 2026

ASPAN is in the process of reorganizing and has laid out the plan in a TAPAN meeting that was attended by over 100 members. In April, the Representative Assembly (RA) will make a decision on this proposal. Texas will be joined by Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana to form the South Central Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco for ASPAN's 45th National Conference on April 27-30.

Save the date for our 50th TAPAN State Conference on October 2-3, 2026 in Conroe, TX. Let's celebrate this milestone!

“... each region is thriving by elevating perianesthesia practice”

PANAW CELEBRATIONS



Hill Country & South TX Region Celebrates PANAW

by: Connie Wan,

Our PANAW Education Event on February 7th was a tremendous success, welcoming more than 60 attendees. For those who were unable to attend in person, Webex access was available so our out-of-town guests could participate as well.

We were honored to have excellent guest speakers including:

Dr. Anie Somaiya, DO

Pediatric Anesthesiologist University Health
Topic: **Pediatric Anesthesia - "Wild Wild West"**

Angela Paduch BSN, RN

Fresh Start Medical Program University Health
Topic: **Fresh Start Surgical Gifts- Giving the Gift of Hope**

Emma Silva MSHA, RRT-NPS C-NPT

Pediatric RT Educator University Health
Topic: **Hospital to Home : Ventilator Support for Pediatric Patients**

Their presentations provided valuable insights and sparked meaningful discussion among attendees. Participants also had the opportunity to earn 3 continuing education hours during the event. Everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast while networking with colleagues and engaging with the speakers.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event such a success. We look forward to seeing you at future PANAW events!



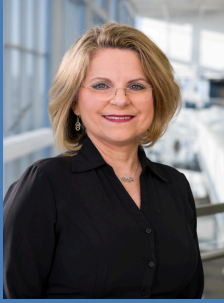
HCSTR Board from L to R: Connie Wan, Carmen Lott, Ida Murphy, Polly Smith, Ann Monica Baban, Elsa Oria-Tijol, Joy McAnear, Cesarine Ruttimann, Ivy Ballesteros, Laura Griffin, Rose Sepulveda, Judith Quindo & Melinda Ver



Over 60 attendees in person and virtually!
*** Photo credit: Connie Wan

**"Presentations..sparked
meaningful discussion.."**

Celebrating PANAW in the N&E Region



by: Kim Register, BSN, RN-BC

The N&E Region wrapped up PANAW week on a high note with a free educational seminar offering CE credits—and what a success it was! We welcomed 40 attendees for a morning of learning, connection, and celebration.

We're grateful for the generous support of our vendors. Soothing Scents provided financial sponsorship, and Pacira treated us to a fabulous catered breakfast that set the tone for the day. In the spirit of giving back, attendees also helped us collect a box full of hygiene items to donate to Network of Community Ministries.

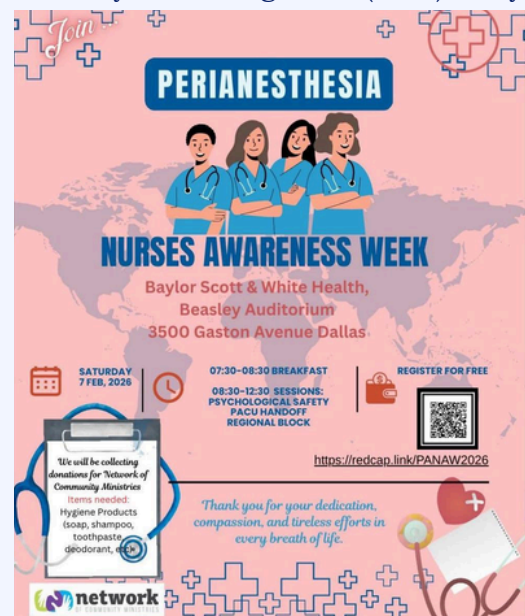
Our speakers truly delivered. Dr. Qian energized the room with a fun and engaging game of Jeopardy, Sharron Coffie shared powerful insights on creating psychological safety in the workplace and introduced the “Platinum Rule”—treat others as they want to be treated—and Amy Parker spoke candidly about her personal experience with incivility in the workplace.

*photo credit: Lynette Alcorn; Chrissy Smith



The excitement continued with giveaways, including two standards books, multiple gift cards, and other prizes. Our 50/50 raffle winner went home with \$125! To close out the event, we surprised and honored Kristi Denton, our immediate past president, thanking her for her dedication, hard work, and unwavering support of the NE Region. More NE Region News:

Our next board meeting will be held in person on March 14, and a community service opportunity is coming soon (TBD). Stay tuned!



PANAW Across the Regions West Texas & Panhandle

by: Trina Mora, DNP, RN,
CAPA, CPAN, NEA-BC, CSSM



TAPAN Members from the West Texas & Panhandle Region celebrated Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week at Midland Memorial Hospital.

They also celebrated different specialties in the Perioperative Services: OR Nurses, Surgical Techs, Endoscopy Nurses during their respective weeks. You can read more about it in their Spring Newsletter: What's TAPANing? on their website at tapanwtxpanhandle.nursingnetwork.com.

Collaboration and cohesion goes a long way!



L-R: Carlene Lundi, Yovanni Villareal, Kim Natividad, Chasity, Shelton, Aryana Sanchez, Marisol Corral, Araceli Escandon, Alexta Ramirez, Estella Jimenez, & Izabel Snellenberger
*photo credit: Erica Herren



Bottom Left: Araceli Escandon. Top L-R: Sandra Aguirre, Karin LeBlanc, Jenavive Perez, Izabel Snellenberger, Trina Mora
*photo credit: Erica Herren



More PANAW Celebrations at Midland Memorial Hospital

PANAW Across The Regions Upper Gulf Coast Region

By Eric Pazziuagan, MSN, MAN,
RN, CMSRN, NI-BC, CPAN



The TAPAN Upper Gulf Coast Region (UGCR) proudly joined the nationwide celebration of PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW) with a vibrant display of unity, pride, and professional excellence across the Houston area. Perianesthesia nurses from preoperative, PACU, Phase II, PAT, and endoscopy units came together to honor their specialty and the critical role they play in patient safety and recovery. Throughout the week, hospitals showcased their teams through themed events, recognition activities, and engaging celebrations that highlighted the heart and dedication of peri-anesthesia nursing.



*photo credit: E. Pazziuagan R.
Caddell, B. Hoiem, A. Bruxvoort, G.
Delos Santos, C. Miller, K. Clay, S.
Lewis, J. Shen and S. Peterson



Upper Gulf Coast Region Spring Seminar 2026

By Eric Pazziuagan, MAN, MSN, RN,
CMSRN, NI-BC, CPAN



The TAPAN Upper Gulf Coast Region (UGCR) successfully held its annual Spring Seminar on February 21, 2026, at Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center, bringing together 105 peri-anesthesia nurses and healthcare professionals from across the region. This year's theme, "PeriAnesthesia Nursing: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," highlighted the specialty's rich history, current innovations, and forward-looking vision in patient care.

The seminar featured engaging presentations that explored the evolution of peri-anesthesia nursing practice, advancements in technology, and the expanding role of nurses in delivering safe, high-quality care. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with colleagues, share best practices, and gain valuable insights that support both clinical excellence and professional growth.

UGCR continues to demonstrate its commitment to education and collaboration by hosting meaningful events that empower its members. With strong participation and enthusiastic engagement, the 2026 Spring Seminar served as a testament to the dedication of peri-anesthesia nurses in shaping the future of the specialty.



*photo credit: E. Pazziuagan

News From Across Texas



*Kim Register BSN, RN-BC
North & East Region President
TAPAN State Board 2nd VP*

Message from the NE Region President

As President of the N&E Region of TAPAN, I'm thrilled to report that our Perianesthesia Nurses Awareness Week (PANAW) was a resounding success! Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this meaningful event.

As spring approaches, we have exciting opportunities to serve our community. Save the date for our volunteer event at Feed My Starving Children on April 4th and join us on May 24th at DFW National Cemetery for Flags for Fallen Veterans.

I'm also eager to represent our region at the ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco from April 27-30, where I will connect with



perianesthesia nurses nationwide to bring new ideas back to our region.

We have much to celebrate! Congratulations to Lynette Alcorn, our co-winner of Recruiter of the Year, and Kalai Kanakasabai for receiving recognition from ASPAN for her recruitment efforts. We're proud of both for their dedication to our profession.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the N&E Region. I look forward to seeing you at our spring events!



West Texas & Panhandle Region Report

*Trina Mora, DNP, RN, CAPA,
CPAN, NEA-BC, CSSM*

In November, Araceli Escandon and Erica Herren volunteered at the Midland HEB Feast of Sharing. It is a huge holiday meal that is served for free to the community in Midland. In December, Midland held the annual PAWS donation drive for a local animal shelter and held a blanket/coat donation drive for the local homeless people. We wish to thank all the very generous members of the Midland community for their thoughtful gifts during the busy holiday season.

The region has recently applied for an ASPAN summer seminar for a certification review class. We are hoping it will be accepted and will be a success!

Our current membership, as of December 2025, is 90 total members. We are working to increase that number and have high hopes that the ASPAN seminar will help increase that number!



News from Across Texas

Greetings from TAPAN UGCR!

We are excited to share the happenings in UGCR from our first quarter, January through March 2026.

1. January: We had a productive Executive Board Strategic Planning Meeting where we are able to map out our goals for this 2026 season:

- (a) We are focusing on growth and making sure we can accommodate as many people as possible.
- (b) We are focusing on financial stewardship and coming up with creative ways to invest our savings to grow our money!
- (c) We want to be more community service minded this year ensuring that we have creative ways for members to be involved!
- (d) We are focusing on succession planning and making sure we have a solid board moving forward since we are in a board transition year.

2. February: We met weekly as a board in February finalizing every detail for our members to have a wonderful experience for our Annual Spring Seminar!

- (a) PANAW week pictures received from various hospitals showcasing celebrations for our specialty!
- (b) Our themed Annual Spring Seminar debuted to rave reviews Saturday Feb 21st due to delicious food, exciting speakers, and a well thought out and planned schedule. All of these items showed up on our member evaluations and we are so pleased we were able to meet the needs of our region!
- (c) Our members donated tangible hygiene items to the local Star of Hope Missions, demonstrating our commitment to giving back to our community!

Upper Gulf Coast Region
Candace Miller,
MSN-Ed, RN, CPAN, CAPA
President 2024-2026



3. March: Even though still ongoing we will begin to planning for our next zoom inservice and business meeting all reflected on our calendar of events on our home page of our website.

- (a) We will be following up on interest expressed from 3 people regarding joining the 2026-2028 TAPAN UGCR Board

4. General Business:

- (a) We have seen continued and steady growth in membership with our last report at 580 members.
- (b) We continue to maintain a strong financial outlook in the green thanks to the diligence of our Treasurer Alma Pope!

UGCR
Spring
Seminar



News from Across Texas



*Hill Country & South TX Region
Ann Monica Baban,
MSN, RN, CAPA
President 2025-2026*

Greetings from Hill Country!

The TAPAN HCSTR Board officers had the first meeting on Nov. 22, 2025 at University Hospital to formally present the officers of the board and jumpstart the decision making and planning for the upcoming year's events. It was also a way to gather the board in one place and space to identify each one's role and position in the organization.

In 2026, our first community outreach at the San Antonio Food Bank was on January 17 where we had the chance to pack food items for community distribution. On Jan. 24, 2026 the board met online via Zoom and decided to meet every 3rd Saturday of the month starting in February. Everyone unanimously agreed to meet virtually monthly and in-person at the end of each quarter. We discussed our upcoming PANAW education event and Connie Wan (education chair) provided updates and delegated assignments and roles for the PANAW activity. Carmen Lott (Historian) also provided updates about the San Antonio Stock & Rodeo event for those who were interested to volunteer to be part of the Medical team. I also informed the officers to review the organization's Bylaws and review their respective roles, functions and responsibilities as officers of the HCSTR board.

On Feb. 7, 2026, the PANAW education activity was held at University Hospital Adams conference room. It was an in-person and virtual event with 3 CE hours offered to the 60 participants. Breakfast and snacks were served. We had 3 distinguished speakers: (1) Dr. Annie Somaiya, DO, a pediatric anesthesiologist from University Health, presented **Pediatric Anesthesia – “Wild, Wild West”**; (2) Angela Paduch, BSN RN, with the Fresh Start Medical Program, University Health, who presented **Fresh Start Surgical Gifts- Giving the gift of Hope**; and (3) Emma Silva, MSHA RRT-NPS C-NPT, Pediatric RT educator from University Health, who presented **Hospital to Home: Ventilator Support for Pediatric Patients**.

On Friday, Feb 20, 2026, a virtual board meeting was scheduled in the evening because the following day, Feb 21, was the San Antonio Stock and Rodeo event. We met via Google Meet for about an hour. Meeting calendar schedule was emailed to all the officers previous to the meeting to get better meeting attendance because everyone could schedule themselves ahead of time. Discussions included:

- Future activities like the Rodeo event with Carmen Lott presenting updates and schedule.
- Decision on organizing and providing the ASPAN certification review course and having the Fall Symposium
- The TAPAN Leadership meeting held on Jan. 29 about ASPAN's reorganization plan
- Presented the changes needed for our HCSTR Nursing Network profile and website during the Feb 10 virtual meeting.
- Next in-person meeting will be on March 20th, 2026.

Policy & Procedure Report

By Susan Russell, BSN, RN, JD, CPAN, CAPA, FASPAN



Policy & Procedure reviews and updates continue on a three-year cycle required by our TAPAN Bylaws and as needed. In January, President Geraldine delos Santos requested that we review the policies affecting education grants and scholarships. Those policies were sent out to the Executive Board and Committee Chairs for review and comment. A Zoom meeting was held February 2, 2026 to discuss recommendations for revision.

Discussions about money can get very lively! Over the course of an hour, we examined the intent of the policy and our ultimate goal of awarding financial assistance to deserving TAPAN members who want to attend ASPAN and/or TAPAN conferences. The most impactful change to the policy was removing the restriction of limiting the amount of the grant/scholarship to the registration fee for the conference. The change means that recipients can apply the award to the cost of travel as well as to registration. Remember that ASPAN's National Conference is also offered online. Members who do not attend in person can apply for a grant or scholarship for the online event.



The application for the Education Grant or Scholarship is on the TAPAN website. An applicant must hold membership in TAPAN for a minimum of one year to qualify. There is a point system which guides applicants through the activities which help them qualify for the award. Points are awarded for participation on many levels and they add up quickly.

The applications are reviewed by the Education Chair/committee to determine which applicants will receive the award. The amount allocated for education grants/scholarships is included in the annual budget adopted by the Executive Committee.



Susan Russell, Linda Allyn, Lynette Alcorn



Geraldine delos Santos, Crystal Robinson, Lynette Alcorn, Hazzel Gomez, Kim Register, Patty Charles, and Katherine Simpson



ASPAN Reorganization

One Voice. One Vision. Better Care

By Geraldine delos Santos MSN, RN, CPAN

TAPAN President 2025-2027

ASPAN launched a years-long campaign to transition from 40 Components to 10 Regions to better support members nationwide.

A consulting firm assisted ASPAN leadership to understand reasons behind declining membership in some components and increasing numbers in others.

A Strategic Work Team (SWT) on Enhancing Operational Capacity was formed in early 2025. Three subcommittees tackling administration & technology; regional consolidation; and membership engagement were developed. Multiple meetings were held to gather the barriers, successes, and possible solutions for each category to enhance the organization's trajectory into a more cohesive, supportive, and streamlined entity.

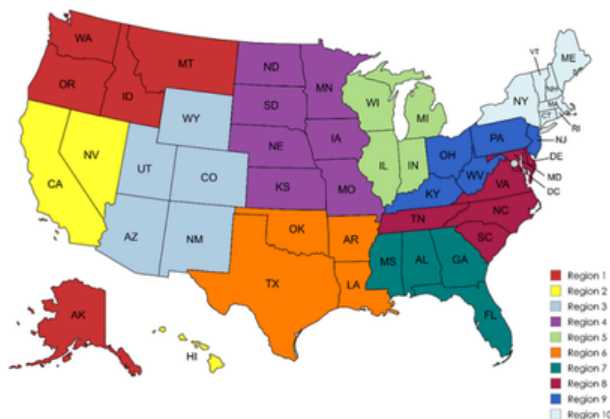
ASPAN's compelling vision is to be "distinguished as the premier organization for perianesthesia nursing excellence". The Reorganization Plan will be the primary topic of discussion at the Representative Assembly (RA) on Sunday, April 26th at the ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco, CA.

ASPAN leaders have conducted meetings with TAPAN members (in February) and a National Town Hall Virtual meeting in March to inform the members about this upcoming reorganizational plan. A detailed document is available in the ASPAN website for your review: [ASPAN Reorganization](#).

We are looking forward to what lies ahead for ASPAN and our new region!

LEARN MORE

The regional consolidation will merge **Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana** and the Region will be called **South Central Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses**.



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

REORGANIZATION PLANNING DOCUMENT

One Voice. One Vision. Better Care.



ASPAN REORGANIZATION DOCUMENT



Growing Stronger Together

By Frances Garza, BSN, RN, CPN

TAPAN Membership and Marketing Update



As your TAPAN Membership and Marketing Chair, I am excited to share the latest updates on our growing community and highlight the many benefits that come with joining ASPAN and TAPAN.

Membership Growth

TAPAN is proud to report a current membership of 1,182 active members, with 48 new members joining us in January alone. This growth reflects the commitment of Perianesthesia nurses across Texas who continue to invest in their professional development and in the future of our specialty.

Why Membership Matters

By joining ASPAN, members receive immediate access to valuable educational resources and cost-saving opportunities, including:

Free CEUs

Access complimentary continuing education activities that support licensure requirements and clinical excellence.

Free Webinars

Stay informed on the latest topics through regularly scheduled ASPAN webinars at no cost.

Discounted Registration

Enjoy reduced pricing for ASPAN seminars and the ASPAN National Conference—an opportunity to learn, network, and stay at the forefront of best practices.

These benefits are designed to empower every Perianesthesia professional, from novice to expert, while strengthening practice within each institution.

Seeking Hospital Champions

To ensure TAPAN members and colleagues across Texas stay connected and informed, we are actively seeking Hospital Champions within each facility. Hospital Champions serve as essential links between TAPAN leadership and staff by:

- Sharing updates, opportunities, and resources
- Encouraging staff engagement and participation

Helping promote education and professional growth within their units

If you are enthusiastic about supporting your peers and want to help us expand TAPAN's reach, I would love to partner with you. Please let me know if you are interested—I will gladly guide you, provide materials, and help you get started.

Together, We Thrive

Thank you to all our members for your continued dedication. Your involvement makes TAPAN a strong, vibrant, and supportive community. Let's continue to grow, inspire, and elevate Perianesthesia nursing across Texas.



L-R: Candace Miller, Valorie Frederico, Frances Garza, Patty Charles, Felicia Selman, Kristi Denton, & Geraldine delos Santos



TAPAN's Seat at the Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition Table: Why It Matters!

By Felicia Selman, MSN, RN, CAPA
TAPAN Governmental Affairs Chair

The Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition (NLAC) brings together nursing organizations from across Texas to speak with one strong, unified voice at the Capitol. Through NLAC, nursing groups collaborate between legislative sessions to identify shared priorities and shape a common agenda that addresses patient safety, nursing practice, and workplace conditions statewide (NLAC 2025). When the Legislature convenes, that collective agenda carries the weight of tens of thousands of nurses, making it far more powerful than any one organization advocating alone. At the 2025 Nurse Day at the Capitol, TAPAN leaders witnessed this power firsthand. We saw multiple specialties and settings representing large and rural hospitals, nursing community advocates, advanced practice nurses, and nursing educators, sitting and standing side by side learning how to brief legislators on issues that affect every Texan who receives nursing care.

It was clear that many of the topics discussed, including staffing shortage, workplace safety, full practice authority for APRNs, prevention of criminalization of medical errors, surgical smoke evacuation, and quality of care, directly impact perianesthesia nurses as well. Yet, as we reviewed the list of participating organizations, we realized something important: TAPAN was not among the twenty-two nursing organizations formally represented in the NLAC coalition. This gap represents both a concern and an opportunity. Without a seat at the NLAC table, perianesthesia nursing perspectives from PACUs, ambulatory surgery centers, pain management units, and all other units where anesthesia and sedation are administered, may not be fully heard when statewide nursing priorities are set.

Critical issues such as safe handoffs from OR to PACU, staffing shortage, patient acuity, daily exposure to waste anesthesia (WAG), can easily be overshadowed if our specialty is not present to articulate them. By exploring TAPAN's participation in NLAC, we have a chance to ensure that our unique expertise informs legislative conversations that shape patient care in Texas. Should TAPAN consider to actively engage with NLAC and other statewide policy efforts? This could include designating representatives to attend interim NLAC meetings, contributing perianesthesia focused input to future Nursing Legislative Agendas, or collaborating with partner organizations on shared advocacy goals.

For our members, this could open new opportunities to get involved, either by joining an advocacy workgroup, attending Nurse Day at the Capitol, or responding to policy action alerts. Every voice and particularly "Yours, the expert in Perianesthesia Nursing" voice is essential in every aspect and process of our specialty organization. Should we explore a path toward NLAC participation? TAPAN will keep members informed through our newsletter, updates on our website. We invite you to share your thoughts if TAPAN should strive to "earn a seat at the table" so that perianesthesia nursing is visible not only in our local practice settings, but also in statewide and national policy discussions.

Together, we can make sure that when Texas nurses speak at the Capitol, Perianesthesia Nurses voice are clearly heard.



The Invisible Dose: Residual Propofol in IV Tubing

by: **Catherine Ocampo, BSN, RN, PMGT-BC, CCRN - CMC - CSC, CPAN**

When your PACU stretcher rolls through the door and you get the handoff from anesthesia, there's a magical mix happening: we're balancing patient safety, comfort, and a smooth transition from anesthesia to awake, stable recovery.

As PeriAnesthesia nurses, we're experts at spotting subtle changes during recovery, but one of the smallest but most easily overlooked parts of that handoff is the patient's IV line: what's in it? what was given through it? and what might still be lingering in it?

Why does checking the IV line matter in PACU? When receiving a patient from the OR, the IV line deserves immediate attention. Medications given intraoperatively, especially Propofol--Yes, I'm talking about that Propofol still chilling in the IV tubing or extension set even after the infusion is stopped. It may seem tiny, but it's enough to cause unexpected sedation, hypotension, delayed emergence, or respiratory changes in PACU, if it gets pushed into the patient unexpectedly.

A quick IV line check helps ensure the patient's recovery reflects their true post-anesthesia status, not leftover meds hiding in the tubing. This small step plays a big role in patient safety, smoother recoveries, and fewer "why is the patient suddenly sleepy again?" moments. Checking and clearing the IV line on arrival isn't "extra"; it's essential PACU care. One quick flush can prevent unintended sedation and give you a clearer picture of how your patient is truly recovering.



Author's real-life photo showing visible residual Propofol in the IV tubing. Image used with patient permission

IV Safety Workflow in PACU

During handoff

- Confirm what IV medications were given in the OR
- Clarify whether the IV line was flushed prior to transfer



Assess the IV site

- Assess IV patency and site integrity on arrival
- Check for swelling, redness, leakage, or pain



Clear the line

Prime the IV tubing with normal saline until residual medication is cleared (per facility policy)



Reassess the patient

Monitor LOC and Vital signs like BP, HR, O2Sat and respiration.



Document

- Assessment
- What you found: patency, resistance, any residual meds
- Any site issues



All photos, reminder and IV safety workflow included in this article are original and created by the author.



Community Outreach Hill Country & South TX Region

By *Carmen Lott, BSN, RN*

On Saturday, February 21, 2026 TAPAN Hill Country & South TX members volunteered to work at first aid stations at the 2026 San Antonio Stock and Rodeo. Our group worked alongside the Rodeo Medical Committee to provide first aid and emergency medical services to visitors, vendors and rodeo volunteers.

Benefits of volunteering include free admission to rodeo grounds, free parking and discounted and free meals. After volunteers complete their shift they are free to walk and enjoy the grounds events.

The San Antonio Rodeo is a livestock show and rodeo. Along with the rodeo, the event includes live entertainment from major recording artists, family friendly exhibits, a carnival and shopping. The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo is supported by 37 committees and over 7,000 volunteers. These volunteers are hardworking and passionate about helping to educate the youth of Texas.

Money raised goes towards children's scholarships in agriculture, western, and livestock industries.

TAPAN members had fun, made new friends and lots of great memories. We hope to make this an annual event.



L to R - Judith Quindo, Carmen Lott & Laura Griffin



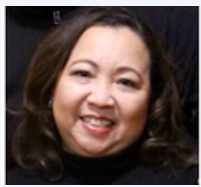
L to R - Carmen Lott, Clarissa Quezada & Carolina Montes



L-R: Laura Griffin & Clarissa Quezada, Annie Maropis & Carolina Montes

**photo credit: Carmen Lott*





Community Outreach Hill Country & South TX Region

By Ann Monica Baban, MSN, RN, CAPA

TAPAN HCSTR Volunteers At the San Antonio Food Bank!

On January 17, 2026 at 9am we volunteered to share our time for the community as part of our PANAW celebration. Seventeen of us showed to represent our organization with enthusiasm as some of us are new as Food Bank volunteers.

The doors of the food bank opened early in the morning, and volunteers quickly filled the room with energy and purpose. We joined a group responsible for packing food boxes. The rhythm of placing cans, rice, and cereal into each box soon became routine. It seemed like a simple task, however, we want to make sure the food is safe and properly organized. What made it exciting is the experience that can help build teamwork, collaboration and community engagement awareness.

It was an honor to represent our professional organization who cares, uphold and serve the community. We left feeling grateful for the opportunity and motivated to continue volunteering in the future.



"What's our game plan?"



HCSTR Volunteers at the San Antonio Food Bank.



Excited to get to work! Packed food boxes with canned goods, rice, cereal, etc..



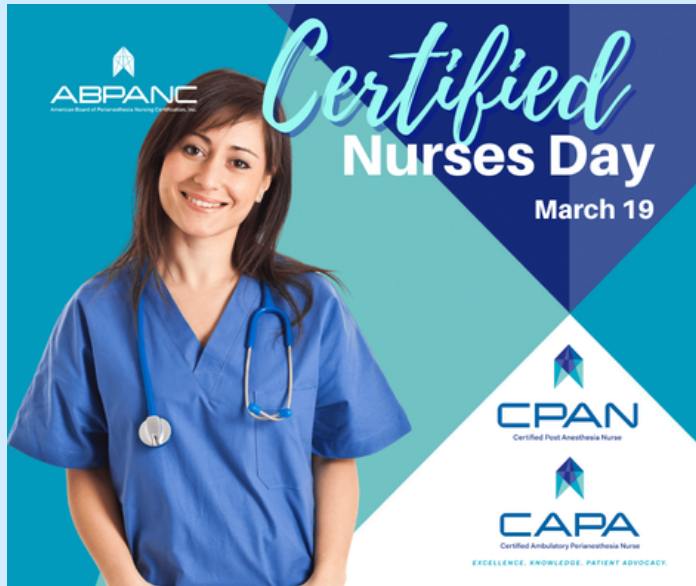
Sorting food items and organizing their tasks..

*photo credit: Ann Monica Baban

Certification Matters

Celebrate Certified Nurses Day on March 19!

ABPANC is proud to celebrate Certified Nurses Day with all CPAN, CAPA, and Dual Certified Perianesthesia Nurse across the United States!



2026 Perianesthesia Certification

Important Dates:

SPRING

Exam Registration Window: Jan. 1-April 30

Examination Window: March 15-May 15

FALL

Exam Registration Window: July 1-Oct. 31

Examination Window: Sept. 15-Nov. 15

Congratulations ASPAN CONFERENCE Scholarship Recipients



Alma Pope, Patty Charles,
Kalai Kanakasabai, Aleli
Cabali, and Katherine
Simpson



ASPAN 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 27-30, 2026 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA



National Conference Scholarship Awarded to Five Deserving TAPAN Members

TAPAN is proud to announce that 5 deserving members were awarded education scholarships to attend the ASPAN National Conference in San Francisco, CA.

Alma Pope, Patty Charles, Kalai Kanakasabai, Aleli Cabali, and Katherine Simpson

submitted applications using a worksheet to highlight their contributions to TAPAN and ASPAN as a whole. The categories included poster and podium presentations at State or National conferences, holding office at the region or national organization, certification, publications, and the like.

TAPAN takes great joy in supporting members financially to participate in the National Conference!

Upcoming Events

ASPAN Winter/Spring 2026 Seminar Series

Live Webcasts and In-Person Seminars

Available for ASPAN Members

FREE!

Log in to ASPAN.org and click on ASPAN Learn
Browse through several 2- or 4-hour live webcasts
presented by ASPAN leaders and experts!

MORE INFO

Webcasts & Seminars

2026 Winter/Spring Series



ASPAN's 45th National Conference

April 27-30, 2026

San Francisco, CA

Pre-Conference Offering:

April 25: Comprehensive Perianesthesia Care:
Preop through Phase II (8.0 CH)

April 26: Perianesthesia Leadership Academy (7.25 CH)

Post-Conference Offering:

April 27: Perianesthesia Pediatric Priorities (4.0 CH)

Click on image to watch the video!



Kick off Conference Week in Style – **A Sunset Bay Dinner Cruise!** To launch the week in unforgettable fashion, your host component PANAC has chartered a three-hour sunset bay dinner cruise on Sunday evening, April 26, 2026.

Picture this: gliding across sparkling waters as the sun sinks behind the Golden Gate Bridge, with panoramic views of the Bay Bridge, Alcatraz Island, and the San Francisco skyline. This magical evening will be the perfect way to connect with colleagues, enjoy the city's beauty while dining and dancing, and set the tone for the days ahead. Don't miss your chance, go to this [link](#) for more details and to register for the special group rate. Spots are limited, so act fast to experience this once-in-lifetime event!



TAPAN is Turning 50 this year!
Let's celebrate this milestone in Conroe, TX
at the State Conference
on October 2 and 3, 2026.

Friday- President's Banquet
(6PM-10PM)

Saturday- Educational Sessions
(8AM-5PM)

TAPAN Executive Board and Committee Chairs



TAPAN Executive Board 2025-2027



Geraldine delos Santos
President
Interim Newsletter Editor



Lynette Alcorn
VP/President-Elect



Kim Register
2nd Vice President



Britini Hoen
Secretary



Alma Pope
Treasurer



Patty Charles
Immediate Past President



TAPAN Committee Chairs 2026



Susan Russell
Policy & Procedures



Felicia Selman
Education & Governmental Affairs



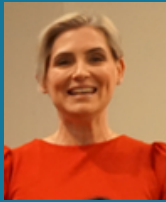
Frances Garza
Membership & Marketing



Katherine Simpson
Clinical Inquiry



Eric Pazziuagan
Webmaster
Newsletter



Rebecca Cadell
State Conference Coordinator

Membership Matters

As of February 2026, TAPAN MEMBERS: 1238

HCSTX:	191	New Members:	10
N&E :	310	New Members:	14
UGCR :	581	New Members:	17
WTXPAN:	96	New Members:	6
STATE :	60	New Members:	4
(44 from Arkansas)			
TOTAL :	1238	New Members:	51



Arkansas Members Join TAPAN

As of February 2026, 44 members of the Arkansas Component (PeriAnesthesia Care Nurses of Arkansas-PACNA) joined TAPAN as their main component.

It was in November of 2025 when the ASPAN President Ursula Mellinger reached out to the TAPAN Board leaders to help members from Arkansas re-organize. TAPAN has welcomed them into our organization in February.

Let's all give a warm welcome to PACNA members into TAPAN!

We are BETTER TOGETHER!

TAPAN History

1976 The Texas Association of Post Anesthesia Nurses was formed.

April 2, 1984 The Organization became incorporated as a non-profit corporation.

Founding Board of Directors:

ELAINE K. MUELLER- Dallas

MARY DONAHUGH- Fort Worth

JOYCE NELSON - Galveston

IDA HODGE - Fort Worth

GAYLE TRENT - Dallas

PEGGY EBENSBERGER- Round Rock



March 24, 1996 TAPAN Board met and adopted a resolution to change the name of the organization from the Texas Association of Post Anesthesia Nurses to Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses.

2009 TAPAN Board undertook the task of redrawing the district lines in order to better meet the needs of the membership. The resulting 5 regions were:

North & East Texas

Upper Gulf Coast

Hill Country and South Texas

West Texas Panhandle

Far West Texas

2019 TAPAN Board made the decision to officially deactivate the Far West Texas Region and the members were welcomed into the West Texas Panhandle Region.

2026 The ASPAN Board made a decision to officially deactivate the PeriAnesthesia Care Nurses of Arkansas and the members were welcomed into TAPAN.



From the Eyeopener Newsletter Editor

Geraldine delos Santos
TAPAN President 2025-2027
Interim Newsletter Editor

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Submission: Members are encouraged to write articles of interest and submit to Eyeopener. It is the responsibility of the author to verify the accuracy of information and provide appropriate references. The editor and the TAPAN Board reserve the right to edit or reject submitted material.

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February 15: SPRING EDITION

May 15: SUMMER EDITION

August 15: FALL EDITION

November 15: WINTER EDITION

Publication Schedule:

Spring Edition - March 15

Summer Edition - June 15

Fall Edition - September 15

Winter Edition- December 15

Submit your Articles to the Editor at:

tapanstate1976@gmail.com

